



Artists Anonymous  
present

LIE BACK AND THINK  
OF ENGLAND

## Letter from the team

This publication is for you, the anonymous we have yet to meet. Thank you for taking the time to read and see this collection. Don't stop just yet.

When you lie back and think of England, are you passive to the issues of the day, or are you taking time to consider the best response to the difficulties and positions you are forced into. Is your contemplation a pause for considered action?

At a time when we are being encouraged to raise our voice and vote in the general election, the theme of this publication has asked artists to consider their practice within this charged context. Let's all take a pause to think about what England the United Kingdom should be or mean.

Deliberately double edged, the theme has created responses from artists in numerous interpretations, giving this publication a multi-layered read. The collection shows artist's exploring the theme through their own practice and their responses cross many mediums including sculpture, mixed media, collage, song, performance, blogs, poems, and photography.

I encourage you, the reader to support the artists who have been selected as part of this publication by visiting their website, listening to their song on loud speakers and watch their performance videos once, maybe even twice. Share the publication with your friends on the other side of the country and make space for these artists in your internet use for an extra 5 minutes. I encourage you to be active in your experience of this document.

Artists Anonymous is run by volunteers for the promotion of community and discussion within art practice. We believe that multi-disciplinary spaces are inspiring and crucial for the individual practice to grow. I feel this publication highlights the space that artists occupy online and the Artists Anonymous community can continue to occupy with or without a live event. Please keep challenging what you expect to be true.

Natasha Glew  
(Co-founder of Artists Anonymous)

This publication would not have been possible without the following people.

Bess Martin – Curating the publication and co-editor.  
Ben Langworthy – Designer of the AA logo and artwork.  
Ryan Thompson – For co-running AA live events.  
Emma Thompson – For running AA live events with Medium in Leeds.

## Artists in order of appearance:

- Andy Wild
- James Blaimes
- Alice Nichols
- Peta Lloyd
- Naomi Gilby
- Anonymous Blog
- Lawrence Malroy
- Margot Pryzmierska
- Theeda Phe Kali
- Aphra LZ O'Connor
- Jon Eland
- Susan Plover
- Louise Clement

My hope is that some viewers will see the piece and want to rip off (visually!) the black square to see what is behind with the intention that they will reflect on what they have behind, inside themselves. I want them to offer a thought as to what they are, a question about their own identity.

## ANDY WILD WHAT IS BEHIND



## James BLAimes

[www.jamesblaires.co.uk](http://www.jamesblaires.co.uk)  
[info@jamesblaires.co.uk](mailto:info@jamesblaires.co.uk)

James is an artist that works with interdisciplinary mediums with the notion of using architectural forms to experiment with spaces and places and engage with the possibility of materials.

He is currently working mainly on sculptural pieces, exploring why the frequent use of the idea of the buildings used and consumed, then developing this within his work. Having lived in many areas around the country and making many personal connections to the places that he has lived within, has allowed for a connection to these spaces. This connection that has been made to places has always had a sense of disconnection, loss and a want of closure, which is seen in the development in his work and the main reason for his creating.

The generic-ism of the CityScape, the LandScape and also the constant change of environment allows him to develop his work and challenges to question each thing he does.

## ALICE NICHOLLS

Please check out  
Alice Nichols music.  
You can find her music at  
[www.alicenichollsmusic.com](http://www.alicenichollsmusic.com) and  
[www.soundcloud.com/alice-nicholls-music](http://www.soundcloud.com/alice-nicholls-music)

When faced with having to respond to the idea 'lie back and think of England's various themes for a song ran through my head. What to centre it on? Patriotism? Immigration? Tradition? Love? Sex? But none of these topics on their own seemed enough to encapsulate 'thinking of England' – a county with flexible borders, wildly fluctuating politics, a country with relative amounts of privilege where those with privilege sometimes don't see or notice those beneath them. As an English musician, and an English woman and a feminist, the notion of my downtrodden country was not a difficult one to conjure, and the idea came into my head of England characterised as a woman.

And so the song began to take shape: the first verse depicting a rose-tinted view of an idyllic, stereotypical England; the second its repressed people, especially the country's attitude towards women and female sexuality, and things we don't like to think about so instead we concentrate on its beauty ('think of nothing/except what lies beneath our noses'...flat skies, everlasting fields, and so on and so on.) I then turned to this idea I had of England personified – and as such, the last two verses could be an unnamed woman, or England herself speaking: both sometimes repressed, both ill-treated, and both staunchly carrying on. It's often how I feel as a woman in England – and to think we are so much better off in this country than women in so many other places.

Think of England,  
Folk songs littering the streets  
Think of this paradise  
That keeps getting under your feet

Think of England  
As you trap her beneath your sheets  
You try to hold her still  
But give her credit for her willing heart

(still it beats, still it beats reality)

Watch Peta's Video Here:

Big Society [www.youtube.com/watch?v=f73D2B89nVA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f73D2B89nVA)

As a nation who has 'conquered the world', 'ruled the waves' and often stuck its nose in where it is not wanted or needed, a superior arrogance permeates the national psyche. We rail about crowded trains, inefficient hospitals and anything that might encroach on our own Back Yards.

## Peta LLOYD



But scratch the surface of this nation of many hues, beliefs, talents and sexual predilections and you find a population who wouldn't want to be anywhere else. Who have a sneaking respect for the queen, are happy that the weather gives them something to talk about, who tolerate their neighbours providing they don't make too much noise and put their rubbish out on the right day, who donate millions to children in need and shed tears over animals in distress.

<http://www.petalloyd.co.uk/>

Check out Naomi's Videos online

NAOMI GILBY



it wasn't just me

<https://vimeo.com/122579159>

Lie back and think of England, think of the future. The future is our children, but what sort of future are we creating for them? Full of daily chores, mundane tasks and banalities that are required to function in the modern society we have created, often leaving little or no allocated time for creative exploration or wonder. A future where happiness is considered secondary to financial gain, a future where the working class are in fact working until the day they die, just to keep up with mortgage repayments. This short film presents children relaying the most humdrum expressions from the artist's own diary, exploring the everyday duties and expectations that stunt our creative productivity. The imagery also contests the ever looming ideas of wasted youth, rush to grow up and constant overload of information present in 21st century life.

I researched the meaning of the saying, and a lot referred to sexual subjects, however I took the phrase to mean 'think of the children' and this is why I have created this piece, exploring imagery using children and context from my own diaries for subject matter.

LONDON ART SLUT

[www.thecolmansingularity.com](http://www.thecolmansingularity.com)

People are slagging off London so much right now and it feels like they're telling me I shouldn't love my husband because he committed infidelity and that I am struggling to communicate that monogamy has never been my top priority.

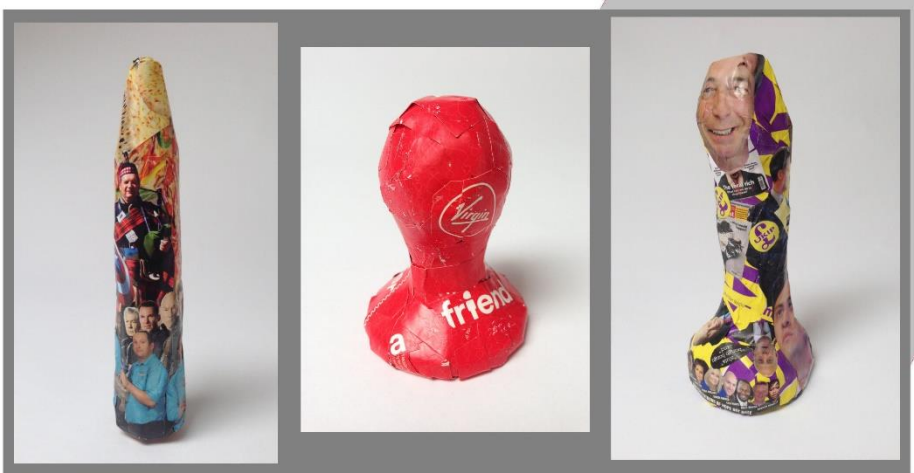
Downloaded Whiplr. No one tells you how much dull buggy bullshit is involved in being an early adopter

Ask out a man on OKC and he doesn't reply for 36 hours: my go to reaction is 'should I find him on Instagram and like everything he ever posted to really freak him out?'

Drop a daffy to get my head down on some editing work. Just get super efficient at internet stalking

Hell is other artists

Genuine concern that my USB charging vibrator is uploading my wank fantasies to my computer



## LAWRENCE MALROY



### Unsolicited Male

Last year I was invited to an exhibition to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of The DIY Art Collective Black Dogs. A long running joke in the early days of the group (when I was a member) was that we seemed to end up with a lot of artworks whose titles were either puns or a play on words, so I really wanted to do something in that vein. I also get a lot of junk mail and am always at a loss as to what to do with it. I therefore decided to collect all the unsolicited mail that came through my door and then use it to make decorative sex toys.

There are four *Unsolicited Male* artworks, each based on a different sex-toy. Because of the amount of junk I receive from Virgin Media (despite already being a customer) *The Virgin Media Butt-Plug* was a no brainer.

*The Discount and Ice Cream Magic Wand* has sprinkles at the base and an ice cream bell and draws its kitsch aesthetic from the oligopolies of Japan and the Far East. The shaft is made up of discount stickers and inviting sayings from take-away menus such as '6969', 'Double the taste and low in fat', and 'Legendary'.

*The Pizza and Superhero Vibrator* features a collage of pizza toppings on the shaft and tip with Superhero's and Maplin shop assistants at the base. There is also a Scottish bag piper in a place of prominence as an ode to the 1983 Bill Forsyth film *Local Hero*.

Luckily the inception of the *Unsolicited Male* project coincided with the European Elections so along with pizza menus featuring superheroes and tech fliers, there were also a lot of political literature and propaganda pamphlets. This was what I used to make *UKIP The State of the Nation Dildo*, or *The Farage* as my housemate has taken to calling it. I feel that you should be informed that this dildo broke whilst being made and whilst now in good condition, is however a little bit crooked on the shaft. I want to point out that this was a manufacturing flaw and in no way reflects on the politicians featured upon it.

All *Unsolicited Male* sex toys are made of papier-mache and active insertion is not advised. They are intended for decorative purposes only.

Lawrence's website: [www.lawrencemolloy.co.uk](http://www.lawrencemolloy.co.uk)  
The Superposition Art/Science/Maker Co-operative in Leeds: [www.thesuperposition.org](http://www.thesuperposition.org)  
[@lawrencemolloy](mailto:@lawrencemolloy) and [@superp0st110n](mailto:@superp0st110n)

Check out Margots videos online.



MARGOT PRZYMIERSKA AND NICHOLAS MORGAN

Untitled | Think England 1 (<https://vimeo.com/122765685>)

Untitled | Think England 2 (<https://vimeo.com/122805910>)

The artistic practice of Przymierska Morgan is concerned with questions around communication & language barriers/windows between people. It is fundamentally informed by the social & cultural environment in London in which the artists live and work. We are investigating the communication practicalities of life when multilingual communities co-habit the same city/ country - in connection with this we are working with the Department of Applied Linguistics at Birkbeck University of London, for whom we are research subjects.

## THEEDA PHE KALI WINTER

was born in East London in 1975 before moving to Leeds. She explored life, travelled and worked as a fine artist and community artist before completing an art degree and entering the teaching profession in year 2000. She later stumbled upon and found great fulfilment in creative writing, and a career in counselling. In 2007 she completed her Diploma in counselling, and now has her own private practice called Blue Hill Counselling service which operates from her kitchen table.

stephenandkali@hotmail.com  
07967 651456

### Writing in black

Am I Supposed to write about something in black?  
Is it enough to simply be black and write from my heart?  
Will I fit the criteria?  
What themes and topics mean the most to me, what do I want to talk about, share and discuss?  
topics are endless but none of them black,  
Will I be recognised or published as a black author,  
or a mixed race author even,  
do I have to write about mixed heritage? or can I just write about my mother and father,  
Do I have to tell tales of another land,  
because I've only visited on holidays,  
heard stories of distant lands  
had longings to belong  
Is it wrong, to want to write about what you know?

### PERSPECTIVE

Houses closest to me appeared huge in comparison to the string of little red brick back to back houses strung together with telephone wires and washing lines of washing hung like bunting, that disappeared down the street into the distance into nothingness.  
Although my own house, so close to me did not listen to the rules and remained so small and insignificant.  
The rooms were small,  
Windows smaller, but strangely enough the views were never ending.  
They engulfed you, as you leapt over roof tops with your eyes, hurdled over the rolling Pennines, ploughed through grass into freedom.  
The expanse of the land, the greenness of the trees, the birds singing, the ever changing pallet of colour, the sun lighting the way, the blueness of the sky on lucky crisp mornings made the smallness of our little house bearable.  
Night fell,  
The birds ceased to sing,  
The trees waved,  
The moon threw me a spot light, which cast upon my front door, on which to sing my song,  
'We were never supposed to have lived here this long.'

## APHRA L.Z. O'CONNOR



"Aphra L. Z. O'Connor is a Fine Art Sculpture Graduate from Wimbledon College of art. Her practice seeks to place itself within an imagined, yet parallel dimension. The printed and sculpted objects play with the combination of design and function merging in familiar domestic settings, and reference the "Sculpture in the Home" ideas of 1950s Industrial Britain."

The work responds to the theme "Lie back and think of England" in its reference to the Post-War Artist Design of the 1950s. It relates to the ideas discussed in the 'Sculpture in the Home' exhibition series that sought to promote a new kind of art within a domestic setting. The thought that people could not understand sculpture as a decoration or a understandable form of art is the basis for my studio research.

Aphra L.Z O'Connor [miss\\_aphra@live.co.uk](mailto:miss_aphra@live.co.uk)  
[aphraoconnor.wix.com/studio](http://aphraoconnor.wix.com/studio)

## JON ELAND

My image of Danny, a young man from Northern England shows him lost in a moment of contemplation; at least tempted by, if not on the verge of enjoying his own company. His attire suggests an interest in patriotism - is he nationalist? But a closer look shows that he considers a past-Britain that extended boundaries across oceans - being wrapped in an early American flag - part stripes, part union flag. Where is our allegiance, where do we fit into the world, who do we love?



BUTILIKEIT.CO.UK

### HOT CHOICE

*It wasn't all corset-strung rosebuds, roses and childbirth  
it was the last thing I was thinking of.  
I wasn't an oil painting, wallflower,  
lust sat on my fingertips.*

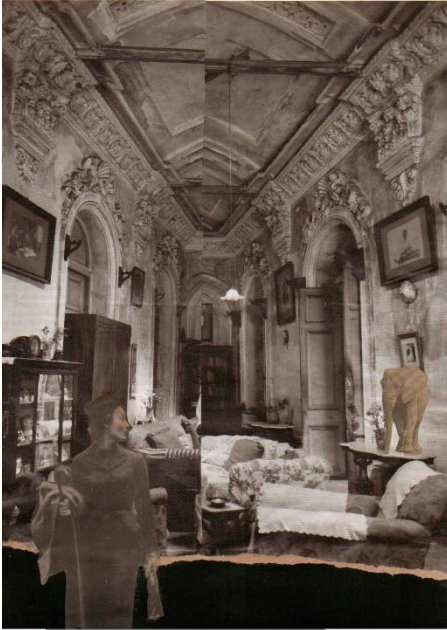
## LOUISE CLEMENT

Born in Scotland and raised in London, Lou Clement now lives, works and studies on England's South Coast in Brighton. She works full time in research & academia. She has long been engaged in cultural and artistic studies, and is studying for a Creative Writing MA. She is currently involved in several projects as writer, poet, and artist working in collage.

### TWENTIETH CENTURY WOMAN

*The pills and gas of Monroe-Plath,  
not objets trouv , not in relation to you.  
I can put my hands on it, my eyes, my skin.  
The breathe of century reek frustration  
  
the mewling, the puking, the caring.  
And while I'm not watching you break bodies,  
an absolute position of loss.*





SUSAN PLOVER



[www.susanPlover.com](http://www.susanPlover.com)

My creative response to the call out was a diptych of two collages. Both are linked by the visual pun, "The Elephant in the Room," which is often used to describe a conversation that dramatically avoids an uncomfortable or taboo narrative. Obviously sex, is often the elephant in the room and frank open discussions are avoided in many situations.

Both pieces speak to each other in a too and fro conversation, riffing on the chasm between the sexes and culminating in the main character actually leaving the home which still contains an elephant albeit of a smaller scale.

The tableau is deliberately surreal and darkly witty but with a serious message underlying. Far too often we suffer in relationships because we are not fully intimate in our verbal and physical interactions.

The human condition is a rich source of inspiration within my practice and a visualisation of a well used phrase drove my final response.

A list of people who have supported AA at some point and deserve a thank you:

Kayleigh Morris

Ben Mills

Enjoy studios

LAB

Adam Young

Matt Allen

Anton Krasauskas

Ellie Harrison

*(Many guest speakers and hosts)*

Medium

East street arts

Leeds inspired

Hoard

Jude Woods

Leeds Art Gallery

Leeds Inspired